

Application No.: 10/674,653

Response Dated: February 12, 2010

Response to Office Action dated: November 9, 2009

Amendments to the Specification:

Please insert the following paragraph at page 4, line 7:

FIG. 12 depicts another embodiment of the adhesive pads.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 23, with the following amended paragraph:

As discussed above, the tissue approximation device may be a pair of forceps where the tongs accommodate the adhesive pad. The adhesive pad may be pre-assembled, or may be fixedly attached to or detachable from the distal end of each of the tongs. The adhesive pads may have a first adhering surface and a second surface having a socket mechanism that communicates with a ball on the distal end of each of the tongs, and the adhesive pad is optionally rotatable around the ball (FIG. 12); or the second surface of the adhesive pad may have a ball that communicates with a socket assembly on the distal end of each of the tongs as shown in FIGS. 7 and 8. Alternatively, the adhesive pad may have a first adhering surface and a second surface having a female receiving mechanism that communicates with a male protrusion on the distal end of each of the tongs; or the adhesive pad may have a first adhering surface and a second surface having a male protruding mechanism that communicates with a female receiving mechanism on the distal end of each of the tongs. The adhesive pads may be made to have a surface having a ball/socket mechanism or a female/male mechanisms by injection molding, stamping and rolling, or by a combination of extrusion and rolling or other suitable means. For example, a part having a first flat surface and a second surface having the ball or socket mechanism or the female or male mechanism may be made by injection molding plastic; followed by coating the first flat surface of the part with an adhesive material to form the adhesive pad. Alternatively, the adhesive pad may have a

first adhering surface and a passageway therein such that a longitudinal edge of the distal end or the distal end itself of each of the tongs communicates with said passageway as shown in FIGS. 1 and 9. The adhesive pads may be made to have such a passageway by injection molding or extruding plastic into a part having a first surface, a second surface and the passageway; followed by coating the first surface of the part with an adhesive material to form the adhesive pad. If the approximation device is intended to be used during application of a topical skin adhesive, the adhesive pads may be made from any material that has relatively low bondability to the skin adhesive, including but not limited to polyolefins.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 23, with the following amended paragraph:

As shown in FIGS. 7 and 8, tongs 112b and 114b include a recess 117, 119 that allows flex arm 121, 122 to deflect when ball 131, 141 of adhesive pad 130, 140 is installed into socket recess 138, 139. The adhesive pads 130 and 140 have a first adhering surface 132 and a second surface having a release paper 144 that would be stripped off from the adhesive pads to expose the pressure sensitive adhering surface 132. When adhesive pad 140 or 130 the ball 131 are offset from the centerline of surface 133 as shown in FIG. 8, clearance between the tongs is increased and tissue eversion may be controlled during approximation. Alternatively, as shown in Fig. 12, the ball 141 can be disposed on the distal end of flex arm 122, and recess 117 forming the socket recess (not shown) can be disposed on the second surface of the adhesive pads 140.